

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has objected to the specification based on a typographical error in paragraph 23 on page 7. Accordingly, applicants have amended line 1 of paragraph 23 to correct this typographical error.

New claims 26-42 are pending in this application. Claims 1-25 have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 16, 17 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,121,977 to Arai et al. ("Arai et al."). In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 4, 5, 7, 11-15, 18-22, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Arai et al. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 26-42 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Arai et al.

New claims 26-38 provide for the display of images of a first image moving against a background (such as a flame flickering against a brick wall) and a second image of shimmering background (such as the shimmering of the brick wall) associated with the first image (the flame). These claims include steps and elements not present in Arai et al. nor suggested or taught by this reference. In particular, in the present claims 26-38, the first image portion is extracted from an image rendering pattern. An example of such an image rendering pattern of a flame is shown in Figure 5. Such image rendering pattern comprises a plurality of first image display portions displayable to simulate motion of the first image. In the example at Figure 5, drawing pattern 114 contains extractable image portions VPj.

Next, a first mask pattern, such as random mask pattern Mj (see Figure 6) is combined with an extracted first image portion to generate and render an object image in the

first rendering area. The first mask pattern comprises background image information and first image information. For example, in Figure 6, mask pattern Mj includes a data arrangement of composition ratios (alpha values). Set for respective of pixels for combining the background image (wall) 102 and the extracted drawing pattern (VPj). Thus, in Figure 6, alpha values in areas 120 and 122 correspond to inner and outer areas of the flame 100 while the alpha values in outer area 126 are selected such that only the color components of the background image 102 (wall) are utilized in respective pixels. This combining is described in paragraph 77 and 78 of the present application.

The above-noted claim elements alone, and in combination with the other claim elements of the new claims, are not present or taught by Arai et al. For instance, with respect to extracting a first image portion from an image rendering pattern, Arai et al. merely divides a region into elongated or vertical slice regions and an image is drawn by randomly swaying each such slice region. Arai et al. does not select a slice or first image portion of a drawing of an image rendering pattern to represent the image, but merely shifts each slice of a composite of slices to form a wave movement effect by repeatedly and randomly shifting each slice to alter the image of a plurality of slices.

Moreover, Arai et al. does not teach, suggest or disclose use of a first mask pattern as set forth in the present claims, which includes background information and first image information. Rather, any "mask" formed by Arai et al. is merely an area designated to be divided into slice regions, such as designation of sway region information 12 defining the region of water surface corresponding to the original image 11.

New claims 39-42 also patentably distinguish over Arai et al. First, these claims require extracting a first image portion from an image rendering pattern of an image. (See, e.g., Fig. 5 of the present application.) No such image rendering pattern or image portion extraction step is disclosed, taught or suggested in Arai et al.

Second, the claims call for combining a mask pattern with the extracted first image portion wherein the mask pattern comprises background image information and first image information. (See, e.g., areas 120, 122 and 126 of Fig. 6 of the present application.) Arai et al. simply defines an area of sway of the original image and applies that information with a sway intensity to the original image to form the swayed output image (i.e., the swayed reflection in lake).

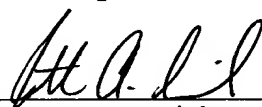
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Jonathan A. David
Registration No.: 36,494
(908) 654-5000
Attorneys for Applicant